

Riverdale Collegiate Institute
School Council Minutes
September 22, 2016

Present: Kenn Harvey (Principal), Rebekah Tsingos (VP), Renee Martens, Sheryl Dyke, Irina Filippova, Fiona Christie, Ronda Kellington (Chair), Matilda Kissi (Outgoing Chair), Nicole Herbert (Co-Chair), Julia Hagon (Student Council VPX), Barbara Stock, Zari Atai, Saddeiq Holder, Lindsay Clarke-Andrews, Karen Wiseman, Harumi Yamamoto, Anne Comer, Virginia Dial, Clare Walker, Hana Wang

Regrets: Leo Agosto, Adrian Sheepers, Sharon Broughton, April Moon, Heather Cook, Mirka Macalik (Secretary)

1. Welcome / Introductions

- a. Parents - All in attendance introduced themselves and said which grade their child or children were in
- b. Student Council Rep – Julia updated the group re recent student activities
 - i. SPC cards were sold out last week – the remaining one card will be used as a prize for an upcoming event
 - ii. Spirit Week – week of September 26
 1. PJ Day
 2. Twin Day
 3. Black & White Day
 4. Jersey Day
 5. Raider Day
 - iii. Meet the Teachers – September 28
 - iv. Commencement – October 6
 - v. Club Fair – October 19, during lunch
- c. Teacher reps (No teachers were present)
- d. Background info – Nicole Herbert gave a overview of School Council activities
 - i. No parent fundraising at RCI, except in the ‘Welcome package’
 - ii. Nicole is the keeper of the Rules & Regulations (her last year with RCI)
 - iii. New email address: sc.riverdalecollegiate@tdsb.on.ca
- e. School Profile – Kenn Harvey described RCI
 - i. 1185 students registered this year
 - ii. RCI unique attendance situation in that students can only enter at grade 9
 - iii. Slightly higher % of girls over boys
 - iv. Very diverse student body, with Chinese & SE Asian at about 50%
 - v. Reflected by the socio-economic diversity of the neighbourhood:

LOI List of 105 schools, RCI at 50th place for years, in the centre – the list measures the highest need to the highest advantaged schools - RCI is a school with both ends represented – as the neighbourhood changes (gets more gentrified) that changes – RCI has moved from 50 to 71, although that has not yet been reflected in the student population – affects school staffing and supports
 - vi. RCI’s geographical boundaries are roughly: Lake Ontario to Danforth and the Don River to Coxwell

- vii. RCI hosts Extended French program – attendance is based on feeder schools Earl Grey, Duke of Connaught, Bowmore (who can choose RCI or Malvern)
- viii. Special Ed students – approx 120 (10%)
- ix. Learning Centres – new TDSB structure: boundaries changed this year – city is no longer divided into quadrants – RCI is now in Learning Centre 4
Roughly, Victoria Park to Mississauga and St. Clair south
LC's based on diversity and needs
Policy making is the same but new structure intends to be little more specific & responsive to areas' needs
Learning Centres are divided into Learning Networks (formerly Family of Schools)
RCI's new Superintendent (SO) is Mary Jane McNamara
Redistribution based on a good mix – Monarch Park, RCI, Greenwood/Sole, Hayden Park (Spec Ed)

f. Principal's Report

- x. Labour Update - all bargaining units have settled except Principals and Vice Principals (non-union group) for 1 year
- xi. Staffing – staffed for projected 1135 with 1185 students enrolled – by Oct 31 class sizes have to be compliant with teacher collective agreement – grade 9 classes mostly affected right now, huge class numbers do not meet the collective agreement – new staff may be hired, reconfiguring and new time table – try to make fewest changes to fewest people – extra desks are ordered, classrooms are available – now that 'bums are in chairs' school can properly assess and restructure
- xii. ARC (see ii) – was meant to be temporary until enrollment numbers dropped off, but they have not gone below capacity at RCI
- xiii. Budget – available for review on the TDSB website – \$300,000 has not changed – the funding formula is based on the number of students
- xiv. Technology – budget line is \$9,000 – to replace the computers which were returned when the lease was up last year is \$12,000
- xv. School Improvement Plan (SIP) – has changed with new Director Malloy's 3-pronged vision. Parent input will still be sought. More info as it rolls out.
 - 1. Achievement
 - 2. Well Being
 - 3. Equity
- xvi. WiFi – TDSB system still not upgraded because case is still in the courts

2. Matters Arising / Intro to business

- a. PRO Grant update – Fiona Christie applied for and won a grant on behalf of the council for \$675 in June 2016 for the 2016/17 year:

The basis of the proposal was this;

The School Council at Riverdale CI has identified there is a need to expand our role and to share the responsibility of addressing issues regarding the Mental Health of its student base. To that end, the Council has targeted the 2016/17 school year as the start year of an initiative to involve parents, broaden the conversation and plan events which inform and engage.

The overriding concern of the Council is that the mental health of our students is a key factor for their future success and yet our parents' ability to affect a better and healthier outcome at school is often not well understood.

The plan is a two-prong approach.

1. Information workshops:

Offer workshops which are specifically geared to parents providing information and guidance how to monitor and help

with their child's mental health and stress-reduction at school.

2. Socializing events:

An invitation for parents to attend various school-based events. Each event has the same clear mandate to encourage the parents to 'mix & mingle'. A time-slot is attached to the schedule of other events (ie: Music Night) because parents are already in the school. This gives parents the forum, the much-needed opportunity, to meet each other and to talk about shared concerns.

- b. Parent Social – October 18 was scheduled as a date for a parent-oriented social event – it was proposed to be a 'pot luck' with dishes for 4-6 people
- c. Social Committee – names were collected from people interested in being involved in planning and/or execution
- d. Curriculum Night (Meet the Teachers) – September 28
 - i. 6:00pm - Souvlaki dinner (with vegetarian & halal options)
 - ii. 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - Teachers meet parents in the Atrium to describe their departments and programs and answer questions

3. **Mingle** – the group were asked to 'vote' on various workshops and information nights for upcoming School Council evenings

4. Election

- a. Chair – Motion to acclaim Ronda Kellington (co-chair from 2015/16) as Chair for 2016/17 – she requested to have another as co-chair if possible. Nicole Herbert remains as Past Chair Emeritus to assist
- b. Secretary – motion to appoint Mirka Macalik (absent, with consent) – she requested to have another as co-secretary to back her up – Fiona Christie said she would when she could as other said too
- c. Ward Rep – There is not yet a volunteer for this position. Attendance may be rotated.
- d. School Committees
 - i. Caring, Safe & Accepting Schools – Renee Martens, Zari Atai, Nicole Herbert
 - ii. Equity – No volunteers yet
 - iii. Mental Health
(Note: i. & iii. Likely to be combined)Suggestion to have these daytime meetings by conference call or speakerphone using Google docs, email communication as well

5. New Business

- a. Question asked - How to get more parents to come to parent Council meetings? Great to have the Grade 9 parents especially ... bring a friend.
- b. The acknowledgment of the First Nations' traditional territories and lands should be done at the beginning of each meeting

Next Meeting – October 20

Addendum

Discussion created the idea to move the Parent Social date from Oct 18 to Oct 20

Invite Parents to a Pot Luck at the school on October 20, which is the same day as the next School Council Meeting - Combining the 2 things would make fewer nights that parents have to allocate to school functions

This discussion will go forward to the Social Committee for further development.